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Behind the scenes at Hancock EOC

Husband-and-wife team helping coordinate
volunteer efforts, donations. Page 2

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The Sea Coast Echo

Since 1892 • We're still here

VOL. 114, NO. 16 BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI

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ONE SECTION, 14 PAGES 75 CENTS

Wednesday
Feb. 22, 2006

DBPA to meet twice tomorrow

The next membership meeting will be Thursday from 8-9 a.m. at the new Jackie O's Cafe in the Diamondhead shopping center. Guest speakers will be Hancock County Supervisors, Lisa Coward and Jay Cuevas. Business After Hours will be the same day from 5-7 p.m. Co-hosts will be Carl Adams Hairworks, The Better Communication Clinic and Taylor Maintenance, located next to The People's Bank on Kalani Drive.

Pearlinton Water & Sewer

The time for the regular monthly meeting of the Pearlinton Water and Sewer District has been changed from 7:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. on March 2, in the Fire Department conference trailer in Pearlinton.

St. Paul parade in Pass Christian

The St. Paul Carnival Assoc. Mardi Gras parade will roll on Sunday, Feb. 26, beginning at noon. Grand Marshal will be ABC News' Robin Roberts.

Krewe of Real People is ready

The Krewe of Real People will roll Mardi Gras Day. The parade will line up at Commegere Park in Bay St. Louis at 11 a.m. and will begin at 1 p.m. There will be no entry fee. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Tequila Hall at 228-342-0883 or Sharon Alexander, 228-493-2092.

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Partyin' up a Storm!



Echo Staff photos by Randy Ponder and Geoff Belcher
The carnival season began in earnest in Hancock County when the Krewe of Diamondhead paraded on Saturday, and the Krewe of Nereids rolled through Waveland on Sunday.

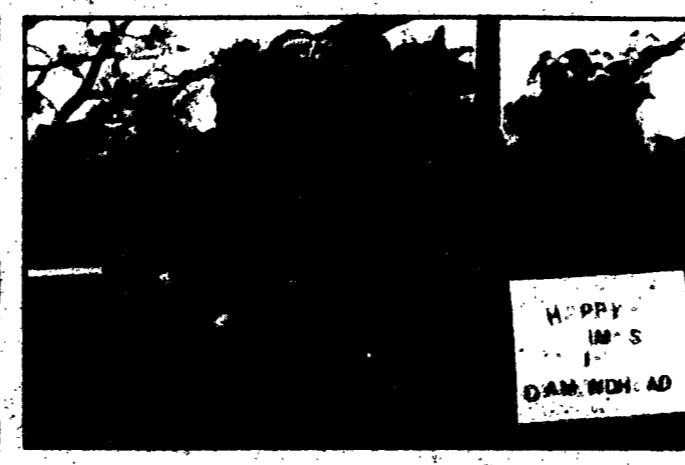
Mardi Gras hits the Coast like a hurricane

SEA COAST ECHO
The Krewe of Diamondhead braved the elements yet again Saturday to kick off the Carnival season in Hancock County with its first post-Katrina Mardi Gras parade.

This year's theme was "Diamondhead Survives," and the community turned out in force to help prove it.

On Sunday, the Krewe of Nereids continued the car-

PARADES—PAGE 8



Hancock man jailed for HIV exposure

Former girlfriend
alleges suspect didn't
tell her about virus

BY DWAYNE BREMER
Staff Writer

A Hancock County man is in jail, and charged with exposing his former girlfriend to the HIV, (AIDS) virus over a two-month period last year.

Sheriff's Department Investigator Rita Watson said that Billy Jo Johnson, age 40, 1260 Rd. 320 Scenic Trails, Perkinston, is accused of exposing his girlfriend of several months to the HIV virus last year, when the couple had unprotected sex, and Johnson did not disclose his condition to the victim.

"The subject said that he has had the HIV virus for about 18 years now," Watson said. "The female victim had a relationship with the subject for several months last year, and Johnson never told her that he had the virus. The victim learned about it when a friend of the victim got curious and confronted Johnson."

HIV EXPOSURE—PAGE 6



Billy Jo
Johnson

Waveland, Bay natives speak out about merger

BY DWAYNE BREMER
Staff Writer

The possibility of a merger of the cities of Bay St. Louis and Waveland has been the talk of the towns over the past few months.

Two weeks ago, leaders from both cities sat down to discuss the consolidation of resources and the possible merger of the two cities into one. Most of the political leaders in attendance said that they would go along with whatever is best for the residents.

MERGER—PAGE 6



Cardia and Joe Williams of Bay St. Louis volunteered after Hurricane Katrina and did such a good job, they were selected to help coordinate efforts county-wide

Donations coordinators serving behind the scenes during recovery

BY DWAYNE BREMER
Staff Writer

As the months since Hurricane Katrina have passed, the needs of county residents have gone through several stages of change. Volunteers have come and gone, and donations have flowed through distribution sites to needy families.

With the task of coordinating the volunteers and donations, Joe Williams and his wife Cardia have been behind the scenes directing things at the Hancock County Emergency Operations Center, since the days after the storm struck.

Williams and his wife have been residents of Bay St. Louis for six years. They moved from Louisiana, to start a new business. Their business is now helping county residents, and they are still excited about their chance to make a difference.

"This has been the

most rewarding thing that I have ever done," Joe said. "It's great to be able to help people on a daily basis. I match resources with needs, that is what we do."

Joe is the director of volunteers and donations, and Cardia is his assistant.

They got their positions after they were volunteers themselves in the wake of Katrina.

"We stayed at the Powerhouse church for the storm," Joe said. "We had to be relocated to the police gym, and we assisted with delivering food, water, and supplies, after the storm."

Their hard work was noticed by Bay Councilman Jeffrey Reed, who recommended the two for the positions. After accepting, they went to work on getting supplies and volunteers from around the country to Hancock County.

"We had our own losses, but we never thought to be in a position to affect so many other people's lives," Cardia said.

Williams and his wife can be contacted at the

"It's really awesome, especially when you can help out families and children."

The first phase was getting food, water, and clothes. Next it was tents, tarps, cleaning supplies, and other recovery items. Over the months the needs have changed, and while all types of items are still flowing into the county, the biggest need today is building supplies.

"We will be setting up staging areas when the building supplies start to come in," Joe said. "We are committed to the long term recovery of the county."

Items that are donated to the county are sent to distribution centers for the public.

There are still several distribution sites open in the county, including the Lakeshore Baptist Church, the Charles B. Murphy School in Pearlington, and the Crane Creek center at Hwy 53 and Hwy 603.

Williams and his wife can be contacted at the

Hancock County Emergency Operations Office at 228-466-8215.

'In John Deere Green'

BY DWAYNE BREMER
Staff Writer

The Bay St. Louis Police Department last week took possession of some new four-wheelers that were donated by the John Deere Company. The four-wheelers, valued at \$6,800.00 a piece were first used at Saturday's Krewe of Kids parade, and the department plans on doing much more with them. Department heads are excited about what the four-wheelers may bring to the department.

"These four-wheelers are going to be a tremendous help," said assistant chief Dave Stepro. "We will use them for special events such as parades, but we will also use them for beach patrol, search and rescues, and getting into the woods and

secluded areas. They will be another great tool to help the department.

Stepro explained that the four-wheelers could have served a vital service in the aftermath of Katrina, and that if the city is ever faced with another disaster, then the four-wheelers will come in handy.

"We could have reached people a lot faster," Stepro said. "These things can get around things and maneuver better than our cars can."

Stepro said that the department has received a number of important donations, including nearly all of the vehicles on the road right now.

"Most of our vehicles survived the storm," Stepro said. "After the storm our vehicles began to wear down because we

were using them 20 hours a day, and the rough conditions, like the salt water and mud just wore them out."

Along with the vehicles and necessary items that the department has received, Stepro said that Paradise Valley Arizona, has donated \$10,000 to the department to help buy new bullet-proof vests for all Bay St. Louis officers.

"We are still in the process of seeing which vest we want to buy, but the money has arrived," Stepro said.

"I just hate to thank this one or that one, because I'm afraid that I may leave someone out. The fact is that we have gotten a tremendous amount of help, and it just shows how much other offices and people are concerned about us."

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Outpatient rehab services, including cardiac rehab, are offered at HMC's Diamondhead Complex, located at Shepherd Square (access road alongside Diamondhead Supermarket). Several local physicians are currently seeing patients in this complex.

FAMILY PRACTICE:

Bert Chevis, M.D. - Mon./Tues./Thurs Shepherd Sq. Diamondhead
Wed./Fri. 149 Drinkwater BSL 467-8422
Sidney Chevis, M.D., 644 Dunbar Ave., BSL, M-Thurs 8-3; (228) 467-9238
Roberta Chilimigas, M.D. - Temporary office at her Waveland clinic, (228) 467-9281
Ron Kellum, M.D. - Indian Hill, Diamondhead, (228) 586-9229
David Roberts, M.D. - Gex Road, Diamondhead, (228) 255-4300

INTERNAL MEDICINE

James Crittenden, M.D. - M-F, 9am till 3, (228) 467-1414
Rowe Crowder, M.D. - 149 Drinkwater Blvd., Bay St. Louis, (228) 463-1649
Arcana Bansai, M.D. (Coastal Fam. Health) Walk-Ins, Hospital Drive, BSL

PEDIATRICS:

Scott Needle M.D. - Mon. & Wed., 9 am-12, Shepherd Square, Diamondhead
Tues., Thurs, Fri., 149 Drinkwater, Bay St. Louis 467-2200
Shama Shakir, M.D. - (Coastal Fam. Health) Walk-Ins, Hospital Drive, BSL
Bertrand Sy, M.D. - Opening Early 2006

PODIATRY:

Jeff Benzing, D.P.M. - Tues., Shepherd Sq., Diamondhead 586-0014

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Jerry Karabin, M.D. - Mon. & Fri., Shepherd Square, Diamondhead, 228-424-2555
Dimitri Yanez, M.D. - 1009 Benigno Lane, BSL, (228) 467-2555

CARDIOLOGY:

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Bassam Baroudi, M.D. - Shepherd Square, Diamondhead (Wed., noon-3) 586-0014
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Richard Akin DDS, 1013 Hwy 90, BSL, (228) 467-4229

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If you rebuild it ... they will come

BY DWAYNE BREMER
Staff Writer

The Bay St. Louis Sports Complex will soon be hearing the ping of a baseball coming off bat and the sounds of beers from adoring parents, as young men and women will be circling the bases, and heading for home once again.

Next month, the Bay St. Louis Little League will have its 2006 season, thanks to some extraordinary locals and volunteers from across the country.

In December a group from Hancock County Indiana, who called themselves "Katrina's Cleanup Hitters", came to Bay St. Louis with 41 volunteers ranging from ages five to 68. The group made two trips to Bay St. Louis, one to bring a semi-trailer full of baseball equipment, and during the second trip, the group worked at the Sports Complex for three and a half days, getting several of the ball fields into playing shape.

The idea for "Katrina's Cleanup Hitters", came from the hearts of a family in Indiana, and spread to many others in their community.

Watching all of the hurricane television coverage from afar, Liz Rusche made a decision to do something to help.

"At first we wanted to come and help rebuild someone's house," Rusche said. "After some discussion with my husband and kids, we decided to do something that would help more than just one family. We love baseball here in Indiana, and we began to see if there were any youth baseball leagues that needed some help."

Rusche contacted the Sheriff of Hancock County Indiana, and asked about contacts that the Hancock County Sheriff's Department made with Hancock County Mississippi. Rusche eventually heard from County Attorney Ronnie Artigues, who is also the president of the Bay St. Louis Youth Baseball League. After making contacts here, Rusche contacted the New Palestine High School baseball team, and youth baseball league, and began to get donations of equipment and money. Rusche's cause picked up steam, as she was featured on television and news in Indiana, and after raising over \$6,000 dollars cash, and \$10,000 dollars in equipment, the "Katrina's Cleanup Hitters", made their way to Bay St. Louis.

"Liz was my saving grace," Artigues said. "Without her and all of those volunteers there would be no youth baseball this year. They did everything for us. We



The Bay St. Louis Sports Complex, located on Athletic Drive in Bay St. Louis was heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Thanks to the help of a number of volunteers, the Sports Complex will be seeing Little League Baseball once again next month.

have all new equipment, a new concession area, lights, dugouts, it should be more than enough to get us through this year."

Artigues is excited about the chance to bring youth baseball back, not only to Bay St. Louis, but to all area youths.

"We have extended an open invitation to all of the little leagues in the county to play at the Sports Complex this year," Artigues said.

Registration for all leagues will be March 12 at the Sports Complex,

and opening day is set for April 22.

"We have been surprised by the amount of interest shown by parents and the kids," Artigues said. "The tryouts are just to balance the teams, any kid who tries out will make a team."

Artigues also mentioned the Bucks County Pa. group for assisting in equipment, as well as Kevin Aicklen, who donated a valuable piece of equipment for the field. Artigues said that he also wanted to thank

volunteers from Yates Construction, who have helped with the light poles at no charge.

As for Rusche, she hopes to revisit Bay St. Louis soon, and possibly even see a few games at the new Sports Complex.

"I can't wait to come back," Rusche said. "My kids ask me everyday. Once you do something for people or a place you leave your heart there. It was not only a joy to help the children of Bay St. Louis, but it was God's will."

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Opinion

From the Senate

by Trent Lott
U.S. Senator

To protect and project

In recent years I've expressed concern about our nation's luke-warm shipbuilding budget, not just regarding vessels to be built at Mississippi's Northrop Grumman Ingalls shipyard, but for our entire naval shipbuilding plan. That's because, time and time again, history has proven that it is nations with an ability to project power and protect interests which endure. This has benefitted America since President Thomas Jefferson dispatched our young Navy to Libya in 1801 and defeated pirates who were threatening our merchant ships. It's still true today as we fight terrorists who threaten us all. Thankfully, some in Washington seem to be reaffirming that seaborne tradition.

The last few months have brought us a new Secretary of the Navy and a new Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), and I'm pleased to report that this shuffle seems to have given this administration a new appreciation of our ship-

LOTT--PAGE 6

building budget and priorities. In fact, the President's budget for fiscal year 2007 contains \$8.2 billion to build seven ships. That's well up from the fiscal year 2006 budget which funded only four ships.

A lot of this re-emphasis on the shipbuilding budget is coming from the new CNO Admiral Mike Mullen. I met with Admiral Mullen just last week about the Navy's shipbuilding plan. Of those seven new ships he outlined to me, five of them have ties to Northrop Grumman Ingalls.

The President's shipbuilding budget includes partial funding for the groundbreaking DD(X) destroyer — a project that will help keep steady employment at Mississippi's largest private employer for years to come. From my meetings with him, I believe Admiral Mullen is a genuine champion of this ship which will be to shipbuilding what stealth technology was to aircraft. DD(X) has the

A national TV audience in 1964 was captivated by the booming voice of a stubby Mississippi black woman named Fannie Lou Hamer coming from the Democratic National convention in Atlantic City.

Dramatically, she told from her personal experience how Mississippi blacks through violence and intimidation were excluded from the political process in her state.

Herself a former sharecropper on a Mississippi Delta cotton plantation, Hamer had been selected as spokesperson for the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. MFDP, a collection mostly of rural Mississippi blacks with no political experience. They had come by bus to Atlantic City to challenge the state's all-white regular Democratic dele-

gation. We now know this ragtag Mississippi "freedom" delegation rewrote the history of the National Democratic Party and changed forever the relationship of Mississippi Democrats and other deep South Democrats to the national party.

It took Hamer's stirring testimony to the convention's credentials committee that Saturday afternoon in August of 1964 to trigger events that would later doom forever the Democrats' domination of Mississippi politics.

And, in essence, her

words that day ignited the emergence of the once-hated Republican Party to become in the next 25 years a dominant political party force in Mississippi as well as other former "Solid South" states.

That I was present in that Atlantic City convention room as a reporter for The (N.O.) Times-Picayune and witnessed the drama of Hamer's historic appearance remains one of the most momentous experiences of my journalistic career.

As I accurately predicted in a column back then, the outcome of the

challenge, coupled with the likelihood Republican Barry Goldwater would carry the state in that fall's presidential election, could become the bridge long sought by old Dixiecrats to deliver the state to the GOP.

This past Monday night, Mississippi Public Broadcasting television aired from National Public Broadcasting a 30-minute documentary depicting the remarkable life of Mrs. Hamer, highlighted by her moving testimony to the 1964 Democratic National Convention.

The documentary was satisfactory as far as it went, but it missed the backstage high drama and historic political impact of the Hamer and MFDP challenge.

So powerful was Hamer's testimony

MINOR--PAGE 5

Freedom in Mississippi

Eyes on Mississippi

by Bill Minor

C.S.I. MISSISSIPPI



Letters to the Editor

Volunteers have made a difference

Dear Editor,

My father, the late historian Stephen Ambrose, would not have been surprised to learn that the people of Whitewater had found time in their busy lives to help the people of Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. He was, after all, a proud son of Whitewater. His childhood had imbued in him a positive outlook on life and a set of principles to live by. He believed that

these principles — honesty, courage, teamwork and service — had enabled America to surmount great challenges, like World War II. When lecturing on some aspect of the war, he always concluded by asking his audience to "look at what we can achieve, when we all work together."

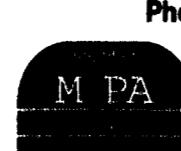
Stephen Ambrose would have been similarly inspired by the young men and women of the Student Optimist Club of UW, by Sgt. Mike Ciardo, Kevin Brunner, Maggie Winz and by all the good people of Whitewater who have donated time and resources to the people of

Sincerely,
Hugh Ambrose

The Sea Coast Echo

USPS 487-100

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Better buckle up, Mississippians

Our work continued at the Capitol this past week. The deadline for the Senate to finish floor action on general Senate bills has elapsed. Now the bills we authorized go to the House for consideration. We have begun the process of referring bills that passed on the House floor to our committees for review. This process will consume most of our time over the next few weeks as March 8th marks the deadline for our committees to report on House bills.

There are a few House Bills that have made it through their respective senate committees and been voted on by the Senate. Included in these is HB 562, which has been sent to the Governor for his signature. This bill establishes the Help Mississippi Vote Fund in the

Secretary of State's Office. It also authorizes the issuance of \$6 million in general obligation bonds to this fund. Currently, consumers pay a \$10 UCC fee of \$5 of which goes to county chancery clerks. HB 562 extends and redirects the chancery clerk's fee, which was set to expire Oct. 1, 2007, to the Secretary of State's office to pay off the bonds. The funds will be distributed to all 82 counties in the state for the purchase of additional voting machines. Furthermore, the bill allows counties to utilize some of these

From the MS Senate

by State Sen. Scottie Cuevas

to wear a seatbelt in a vehicle a primary offense, punishable by a fine of Twenty-five Dollars. Currently, failure to wear a seatbelt is a secondary offense, punishable only if the violator is also charged with an additional offense. Both of these bills have been signed by the Governor

Next week we will begin work as a body on the appropriations process.

The Appropriations Committee has been finalizing preliminary bills based on the recommendations by the Legislative Budget Committee. The bills adopted will be the first framework for the FY2007 budget. Actual figures will be adjusted as the process moves forward and more clearly defined revenue projections are determined. The

Minor -- freedom

before the DNC that President Lyndon Johnson, who caught it on TV, already nervous that the Mississippi challenge would trigger disturbances marring his "coronation" at the convention, called an impromptu press conference so the networks would break away from their coverage.

However, the networks, realizing the national impact of the Hamer testimony, later rebroadcast the missed parts of her DNC appearance. Thousands of telegrams poured into delegates at the conventions urging that the Mississippi challengers be recognized.

Under a great deal of pressure to at least produce a compromise on the MFDP challenge, the convention credentials committee, headed, incidentally, by Walter Mondale, then Minnesota Attorney General, announced a proposal which soon was rejected by both the freedom group and the regulars.

The compromise, orchestrated by LBJ, provided two members of the FDP would be seated

as delegates-at-large and the rest would be considered honored convention guests. On the regular side, no delegate would be seated unless he signed a mildly-worded loyalty oath to support the party ticket in November.

At an FDP caucus where co-chairman Aaron Henry, the NAACP president spoke for acceptance of the compromise, the vote was overwhelmingly opposed. Hamer, by then the symbol of the challenge, weighed in that "we didn't come all this way for no two seats."

Even before the regulars could caucus and vote on the compromise, an announcement was made in Jackson by Gov. Paul B. Johnson, that the delegation was coming home. An informal nose count I made of the regular delegates indicated 20 to 25 actually would have been willing to sign a "declaration of intent" as was proposed.

While all the other regulars packed their bags and went home, four of them did stay and signed the oath. The four occupied chairs in Mississippi's designated

seating area on the convention floor around which worried convention brass had strung yellow tape and posted security guards.

But suddenly some guys in suits, several with a bug in their ear, obviously FBI, and others with a rosette in their lapels, that's Secret Service, surrounded Mississippi's seats. "What's going on?" I asked one of them. No answers, of course.

Only later did I find out that Lyndon Johnson panicked after hearing a rumor that some FDP challengers who got into the convention hall would surge into the empty Mississippi seats. Because he was to

address the convention that night, he ordered in the troops to stop any rumpus around the Mississippi seats.

The credentials committee, more important than it's aborted seating compromise, had made a major change in convention rules: that in the future no state would be seated if blacks were barred from the selection process and none were in their delegation.

That meant Mississippi Democrats could no longer play by their own rules if they were going to participate in the national party. When that word got back to Mississippi, the white flight from the party would begin.

Continued from Page 4

deadline for the action on these bills is February 22nd.

On a final note, this week we presented a commendatory resolution to Anthony McGaha, Mississippi's 2006 Youth of the Year. The honor bestow on Anthony is an annual award given by the Boys and Girls Clubs of America in recognition of one student's community service, academic performance, spiritual values, life goals, poise and public speaking ability. The Boys and Girls club is a wonderful organization for so many youth and we thank them for their service to this State.

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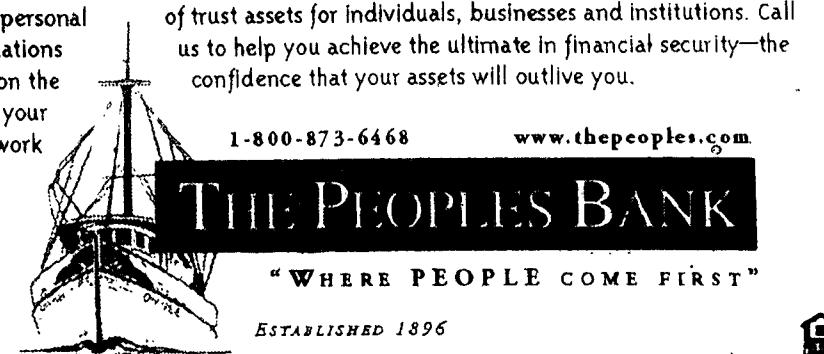
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Corps to fill 120 jobs

Effective this week, the Army Corps of Engineers will begin hiring locally to replace many of those who are rotating out and returning to their home stations. The Corps is accepting applications for up to 100 temporary positions, classified as quality assurance clerks, to work in support of the Corps debris removal mission.

These positions oversee the operation of debris removal, including inspection-monitoring, truck ticketing and monitoring, and safety oversight. Necessary training will be provided. Duration of need for these workers is expected to be 60-120 days, but may be up to one year in

some cases. The Corps is also accepting applications for up to 20 temporary clerk positions to provide general administrative support to the offices established in Biloxi, Diamondhead, Gautier, and Hattiesburg.

Salary range is \$25,000 to \$33,000 per year, roughly. The GS-4 equivalent positions require U. S. citizenship, one year experience at a lower-grade level equivalent or two years education past high school, or a combination of education and experience.

These job advertisements will remain open and will be filled as additional positions become available. For more, contact your local WIN job centers.

PAGE ONE

Merger -- residents speak out

Both sides agreed to continue to look into the matter, and the Stennis Institute from Mississippi State University is set to conduct a study on how practical a merger would be.

With the ongoing debate, the Echo spoke with several residents from Bay St. Louis and Waveland this week. The results are as follows:

Bay St. Louis resident Rita Watson

Watson is a Hancock County Sheriff's Department investigator.

"I think it would be great to consolidate services, and still have the cities maintain their identity," Watson said. "I would love to see the extra tax revenue that Waveland has, but I don't know if the merger would be fair to Waveland."

Waveland resident Patricia Kondash

Kondash is retired. "I don't think that either city has the money to pull it off," Kondash said. "They should know all the pros and cons before making this kind of decision. I could be for

it if they would save money and not have anyone lose their jobs, but there are a lot of questions."

Waveland resident Donnie Thomas

Thomas is a Waveland resident and business owner in Bay St. Louis.

"This is a close-knit community," Thomas said. "Everyone has lived in one or the other cities at one point, and it's like we are one city anyways. We went to school with each other, work with each other, and everyone knows everyone else. Why not, it may be beneficial to all, and I would say take it a step further, and go county wide."

Bay St. Louis resident Tad Black

Black ran for mayor in 2001.

"We have always consolidated some services," Black said. "I think it could be worked out. We could benefit from better coverage of law enforcement and public works. I think that everyone could find a happy medium. The main goal is getting the community back on its feet, and back to the way that it was."

Waveland resident Deborah Richter

Richter ran for mayor of Waveland in 1998.

"They have got to be out of their minds," Richter said. "The Waveland leaders need to worry about their citizens, instead of spending all this time on annexation and merging. They really need to move on. People in Waveland are more worried about their homes and getting on with their lives. I moved to Waveland, I have stayed in Waveland even after my home was destroyed. I wanted to move to Bay St. Louis I would."

Bay St. Louis resident Barbara Gillum

Gillum is a lifetime resident of Bay St. Louis.

"I think it is a great idea," Gillum said. "It's like we are one town anyway. We are right next to each other, and everyone has friends and family in the other city. I think that we would have much stronger resources, and a better chance to recover."

Waveland resident David Yarborough

Yarborough is also a Hancock County supervisor. His District One covers part of Waveland.

"As an elected official, I want what is best for the people," Yarborough said. "As a citizen of Waveland, I think that Waveland can stand on its own. We have a lot of personal pride in Waveland, and I think that would be lost (if the two cities merged). I would have some concerns on zoning as well. However, if the people want it, we will help to make it happen."

Continued from Page 1

Lott

Continued from Page 4

potential to revolutionize naval ship construction as we know it, and it will ensure that America retains our supremacy at sea for decades to come.

In fact, though we in Pascagoula are quite used to competing with other shipbuilding yards like our old rival Bath Iron Works, in Maine, the Congressional shipbuilding caucus has joined together to insist that the DD(X) program move forward with both Bath and Ingalls building these ships together. We feel our nation is best served by this partnership because DD(X) will keep our few remaining shipyards on the frontlines of our nation's defense. Without DD(X) it was quite pos-

sible either Bath or Ingalls could have exited the surface combatant business, leaving thousands of skilled shipbuilders without jobs and likely out of a job forever, since shipyards can't reopen at a later date.

Congress rejected the idea of making these two yards re-compete the DD(X) contract because a majority understand that this is not really an economic, budgetary or regional issue, but a matter of national security. Most Americans understand that having one or more of our shipyards go out of business could result in America's having to contract with foreign shipyards and foreign shipbuilders to con-

struct America's future fleet. That's clearly repugnant to everyone with an appreciation for America's long and storied maritime tradition and our position as a naval power.

We've still got some work to do. As Admiral Mullen and others would probably tell you, Congress will need to appropriate more than \$13 billion a year in the coming years, just to maintain a strength of 300-plus ships. That's far short of the 600-ship navy which President Ronald Reagan and Senator John Stennis championed at the height of the Cold War. However, it is significantly higher than the shipbuilding budgets we

were facing just a few years ago, when we barely expected to field 100 ships.

America is again reasserting our maritime tradition. That is good news for the 11,000

Mississippians at Northrop Grumman Ingalls, and for every American whose lives these ships and crews will protect, and whose national interest they will project.

Senator Lott welcomes any questions or comments about this column. Write to: U.S. Senator Trent Lott, 487 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (Attn: Press Office)

Continued from Page 1

HIV exposure

Watson said that the victim went to Justice Court, and signed a restraining order against Johnson, and that the victim claimed that Johnson was stalking her, after she broke off the relationship.

The victim then filed a report with the sheriff's department, and a warrant was issued.

Watson said that she has had cases like this before, but this is the first time that the victim has wanted to go forward with the charges.

Johnson was arrested on Feb. 19, and charged with exposure to HIV. Johnson was taken to the Pearl River County Jail, and is being held under \$50,000 dollars bail.

"This is an unfortunate incident," Watson said.

"The best advice I can give is just make sure

you know as much about your partner as possible."

Thanks

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PAGES 6-7

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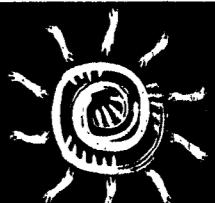
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PROJECT RECOVERY

Project Recovery provides free crisis counseling to those affected by Hurricane Katrina. The goal of Project Recovery is to help people find ways to cope with stress caused by Katrina. If you are suffering from anxiety or sleepless nights Project Recovery can help. Remember, we are here to listen.

Project Recovery is funded through a grant by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and facilitated with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Project Recovery is a division of the Mississippi Department of Mental Health



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Mississippi Hurricane Katrina Recovery Update

SEA COAST ECHO

Federal and state disaster officials provided the following summary of the ongoing assistance effort as of close of business Feb. 15, 2006:

1—The cruise ship Holiday docked in Pascagoula is the single emergency shelter still open, currently housing 52 households. At the height of devastation on Sept. 5, 2005, the American Red Cross was operating more than 129 shelters, housing 15,000 evacuees. With the success of transitional housing programs, the Red Cross closed its last shelter the week of Nov. 28, 2005.

11—March 11, 2006, is the deadline for new applications to FEMA's Individuals and Households Program. Federal and state officials encourage households affected by Hurricane Katrina to seek aid. Assistance to current applicants will continue to be provided after this date but no new applications will be accepted.

15—Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) operate throughout Mississippi to assist people affected by Hurricane Katrina. More than 420,000 Mississippians have visited DRCs since the first one opened Sept. 6, 2005, just days after Hurricane Katrina made landfall.

726—FEMA has provided 726 temporary public buildings in nine Mississippi counties. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), working on assignment,

records all disaster-related damages and may survey damaged personal property, clothing and vehicles.

515,500—Nearly 515,500 Mississippians have registered for assistance through the FEMA toll-free number at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or (TTY) 1-800-462-7585 for speech- or hearing-impaired applicants or online at www.fema.gov.

3,700—Approximately 3,700 people are working as part of the disaster recovery efforts in Mississippi. This includes nearly 1,800 FEMA employees and 1,900 employees for other agencies such as the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and USACE.

98,888—Nearly 99,000 people are temporarily housed in more than 36,600 FEMA-provided travel trailers and mobile homes. This includes nearly 2,000 units that are either mobile homes designated as fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or ADA-Friendly travel trailers.

407,550—To date, FEMA has completed approximately 407,550 housing inspections. The inspection process includes a complete overview of structural damage. The inspector

includes \$418 million for debris removal, \$40 million to repair public facilities, \$210 million for emergency protective measures, \$3.9 million to repair roads and bridges and \$50 million to restore public utilities.

\$1 billion—To date, more than \$1 billion in assistance has been disbursed to nearly 335,000 Mississippi households that have registered through FEMA's Individuals and Households Program (IHP). The IHP consists of Housing Assistance, which may be used to pay for rent, repair or housing construction and Other Needs Assistance (ONA) which may be provided for uninsured or under-insured disaster-related expenses. ONA is a cost-

share program which is 75 percent federal, 25 percent state funded.

\$1.4 billion—The U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Assistance Program has approved more than \$1.4 billion in low-interest loans for homeowners, renters and business owners throughout Mississippi.

\$1.8 billion—FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) has paid more than \$1.8 billion in flood insurance claims to nearly 14,000 policyholders in Mississippi. The NFIP plays a critical role in encouraging communities to adopt, implement and enforce broader floodplain-management regulations and programs.

\$4.5 billion—To date, FEMA has approved nearly \$4.5 billion in federal funding for various Individual Assistance and Public Assistance programs, as well as mission assignments, which FEMA tasked to other federal agencies to aid Mississippians on the road to recovery.

Federal and state disaster recovery officials urge those who have not done so to apply for disaster assistance as soon as possible by calling the toll-free application number at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or (TTY) 1-800-462-7585 for the speech- or hearing-impaired.

Individuals may also register online at www.fema.gov. The deadline for new applications for Individual Assistance is March 11, 2006.

DEBRIS REMOVAL DEADLINE

Waveland, Mississippi Residents Within The City Limits, North of the CSX Tracks

The Deadline For The Debris Removal From The Right-Of-Way Is March 1st.

All Hurricane Katrina Generated Debris Must Be On The Roadside Right-Of-Way By March 1st In Order To Be Eligible For Removal

After the Storm



The Bay-Waveland Garden Club held its Feb. 9 meeting at the Bay St. Louis Library Meeting Room. Polly Cuevas from Pine Hills Nursery presented a program on "After Storm Renewal of Your Garden." She stressed having soil samples tested and gave out kits for collecting soil to be returned to the Mississippi State Extension Service, which is located in trailer 24 on Longfellow. She also gave advice on pruning and re-sodding. The next Garden Club meeting will be held at the library on March 9 at 2:00 PM. The Garden Club is open to residents of the Bay-Waveland who have an interest in gardening. Contact Frances McDonald, President at 467-9513 for additional information.

Avison, Evans to wed



Kristi Bell Avison and Jason Evans

Patrick and Lillian Trahan are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, Jason Raymond Evans to the daughter of David and Jean Avison of Lake Oswego, Oregon. Jason attended Bay High School and graduated in May of 1999. Shortly after graduation Jason left to join the United States Marine Corps. He is currently serving in Southern California at Camp Pendleton where he met Kristi Bell Avison who was attending The Art Institute of California at San Diego. After dating for three years and upon returning from his second tour in Iraq, Jason asked Kristi to marry him on July 2nd 2003, her 23rd birthday, on a dinner cruise in San Diego Bay. The two plan to be married on May 14th, 2006 at Los Willows in Fallbrook, California.

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Parades -- Mardi Gras

Continued from Page 1

nival cheer with its 40th annual parade on Hwy. 90.

The Mardi Gras action continues in Bay St. Louis on Friday, when Bay Catholic Elementary will host its annual parade, lining up in front of the school at noon.

The St. Paul Carnival Assoc. Mardi Gras parade will roll on Sunday, Feb. 26, beginning at noon. Grand Marshal will be ABC News' Robin Roberts. The theme for this year's parade is "Cookin' up a Storm."

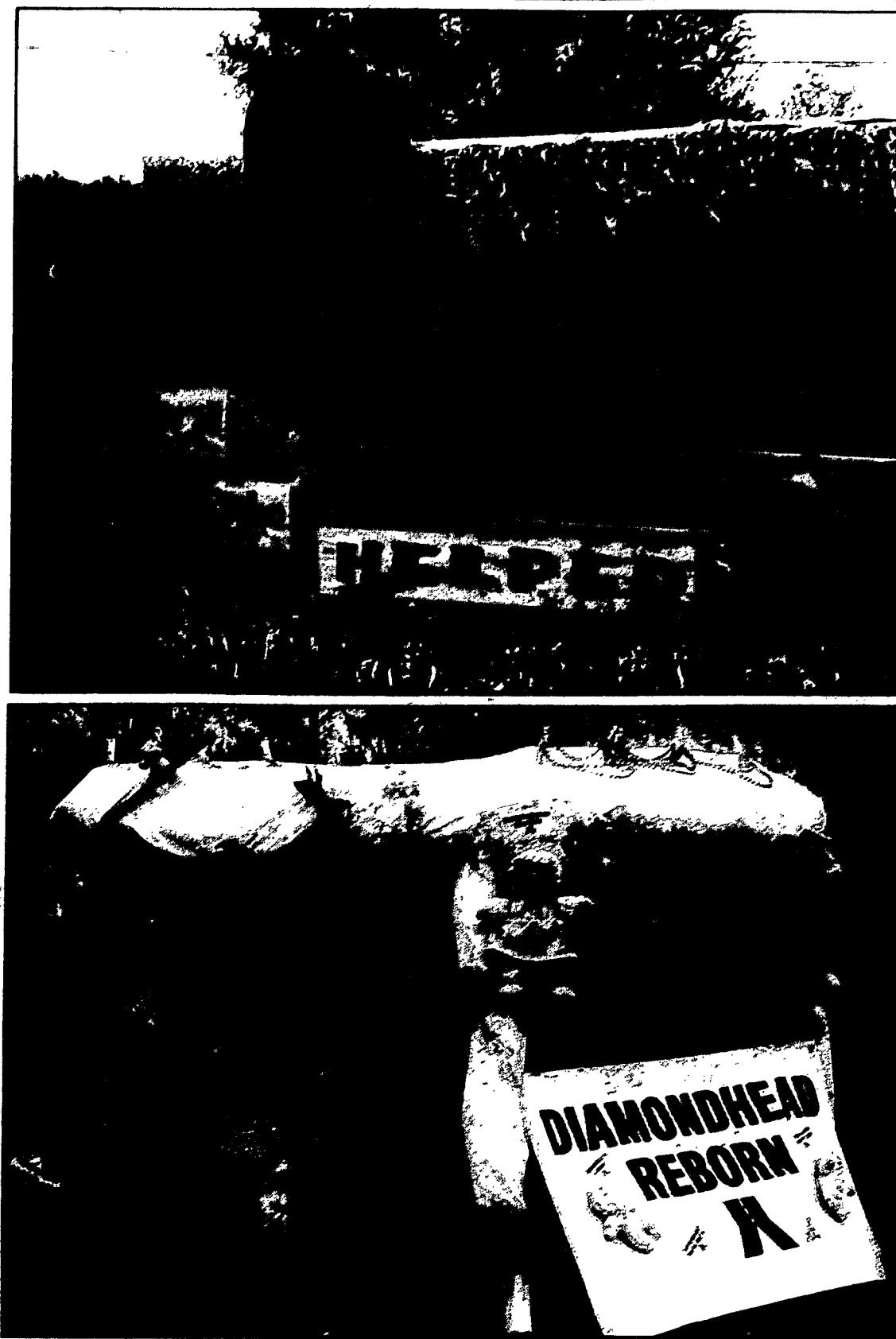
The Krewe of Real People will roll Mardi Gras Day. The parade will line up at Commegere Park in Bay St. Louis at 11 a.m. and will begin at 1 p.m. There will be no entry fee. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Tequila Hall at 228-342-0883 or Sharon Alexander, 228-493-2092.

More photos from the Nereids parade are on page 14 of today's edition.

Winners for the Krewe of Nereids Parade
Elaine Colson Trophy — P-Town Carnival Club

Neighborhood
First Place — LaFontain's Follies
Second Place — Krewe of Komotion
Third Place — Haas Trucking Family and Friends

Business



Echo staff photos by Geoff Belcher
The Krewe of Diamondhead paid homage those who have helped in the storm recovery — and let everyone know the community will be back better than ever.

First Place — Krewe of Kampers
Second Place — Krewe of Fantasy Productions
Third Place — Krewe of Legacy

Mardi Gras Krewe
First Place — SSC
Mardi Gras Krewe
Second Place — Krewe of Who Dat?
Third Place — Krewe of Retselop

Costumes
First Place — SSC
Mardi Gras Krewe
Second Place — LaFontaines Follies
Third Place — Krewe

Obituaries

BETTY LOU GRAHAM

Mrs. Betty Lou Graham, 85, of Poplarville, MS passed away recently. A native of Macon, MS, she was a

retired cook and attended Triumph Baptist Church in Poplarville, where she was in the church choir. Survivors include two daughters, Josephine Burkett of Hattiesburg, MS, and Mary Silas of Poplarville, MS; a God Daughter, Shirley Johnson of Whitehead, MS; one brother, Ben

Graham of Poplarville; six grandchildren, eleven great grand children and one great, great grandchild. Services were held

Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 1:00 p.m. at Triumph Baptist Church. She is buried in Rosa Park Cemetery.

ASHLEY RUTH HOLDEN

July 10, 1984 ~ Feb. 21, 2003



*Remember Me
When Flowers Bloom
Early In The Spring*

*Remember Me
On Sunny Days In The
Fun That Summer Brings*

*Remember Me
In The Fall As You Walk
Through Leaves Of Gold
And In The Wintertime*

*Remember Me
In The Stories
That Are Told*

*But Most Of All
Remember Each Day
Right From The Start I
Will Be Forever Near
For I Live Within
Your Heart*

*We Love And Miss You
More And More Each Day*
Mom and Russell, Bubba, Betsy & Jamie, MawMaw Ruthie, Papa Sam, Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, Friends, and your new nieces Princetta and Gracie

Larry D. Garcia II

May 7, 1973-Feb. 23, 2003

*You never said I'm leaving
You never said good-bye
You were gone
before we knew it,
And only God knows why.*

*A million times we have
needed you,
A million times we've cried
If love alone
could have saved you
You never would have died.*

*In life we loved you dearly,
In death we love you still
and in our hearts
you hold a place,
No one else can ever fill.*

*It broke our hearts
to lose you,
But you did not go alone,
For part of us went with you,
The day God took you home
Sadly missed by,
Your Mother, Father & Mother,
Granny, Sisters & Brother,
Beloved Girlfriend & children,
Aunts & Uncles*

FEMA helping displaced Coast residents with long-term housing

Mississippians displaced from their homes after Hurricane Katrina have found shelter in hotels or motels and a record number are living in FEMA travel trailers or mobile homes. The

U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) have resources to help in finding a long-term housing option.

• Mississippians may contact FEMA's housing

locator service at 1-800-762-8740 or (TTY) 1-800-462-7585 for the speech or hearing-impaired, open daily from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. CST.

• FEMA and other agencies together provide housing alternatives and assistance through the Mississippi Disaster Housing Referrals website at www.msdisaster-housing.org. The website is frequently updated with listings of available housing throughout Mississippi.

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Flood Season Is Fast Approaching!

As so many of us have recently learned, even if you live in an area that is not flood prone, it's advisable to have flood insurance.

Flood insurance is available now. Don't wait till the last minute, in most cases there is a 30 day waiting period before the policy is effective.

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(228) 467-5496

Babe Ruth Baseball Registration

BSL Babe Ruth Baseball will conduct registration for children ages 4-12 on February 23, 27, and March 2, 3 and 9 from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. at the Bay St. Louis City Complex at the Train Depot.

For additional information call Ronnie Artigues (467-5426), Jerry Rigby (467-5744) or Paula McRaney (323-2888).

Sports

Soccer Champs!



The Bay Area Youth Soccer, under-10, Blue Devils claimed the Great Day of Soccer Tournament championship last weekend. The team won all four of its games, outscoring the opposition, 31-2. Team members include Drew Garscadden, left, Niall McHaffey, Patrick Ponder, coach Bill Burnett, Tyler Burnett, Nicholas Bevis, Nicholas Romano and Irby Doseet. Not pictured are assistant coach Billy McHaffey and players Cameron Breland and Reid Horstmyer.

Echo photo by Sherry Ponder

Pass teams & Lady Hawks survive division basketball tourneys

BY JOSEPH W. GEX, II
Staff Writer

Both Pass Christian Pirates basketball teams and the Hancock Lady Hawks are the only area basketball teams still alive following the recent division basketball tourneys.

The Long Beach Bearcats claimed the Division 8-4A boys title while the Picayune Lady Maroon Tide won the girls title.

Defending Class 5A state champion Harrison Central defeated Hancock for the 5A division title.

Long Beach (22-8) defeated Picayune 65-55 behind Owen McNally's 18 points and 9 rebounds. Long Beach defeated PRC and Pass Christian en route to the title game.

The Pirates lost to Poplarville 79-72 in the consolation game to end up in fourth place. Pass Christian defeated the Bay High Tigers in the

first round to advance to the playoffs. Armond Porter led Pass Christian with 19 points in that game followed by Reggie McIntosh and Willis Brownlee with 16 points each. Robert Labat paced Bay High with 15 points followed by Jason Sims with 14 points.

The Pirates will travel in the first round of the playoffs. The Lady Pirates placed second in the tournament following a loss to Picayune in the finals. The Lady Pirates have the opportunity to host the first round but do not have a home gymnasium.

A site was unavailable at press time.

The Bay High Lady Tigers, the defending Class 4A state champion, lost their first round matchup with Poplarville.

St. Stanislaus ended their season after the first round, as well. The Rocks fell to Poplarville 69-58. SSC (9-11) was led by their three All-Division performers Josh Morgan with 15 points, Brandon Butler 11 and Mike Rice 10 points. This was SSC's first losing season since 1992.

The Lady Hawks fell to Harrison Central in the final game 47-37. The Lady Hawks were down 32-20 at one point but rallied to a 35-33 deficit following Jessica Dubuisson's three-pointer.

Shondreka Lee led the Hawks in the final game with 10 points followed by Jordyn Meranto with 9 points.

The Lady Hawks defeated Gulfport 63-42 in their first round matchup. Meranto scored 19 points followed by Lee with 15 and Emma Craft with 14 points.

The Hawks' boys team

bowed out after their first round loss to Gulfport 97-39. Noah Heitzmann led Hancock with 12 points.

Henry inks with Gulf Coast; OLA trio heads to WC; Johnson to PRCC

BY JOSEPH W. GEX, II
Staff Writer

SSC pitcher Tyler Henry recently signed to play baseball with Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. Henry, the son of Frank and Michelle Henry, is a senior pitcher/shortstop for SSC.

Last season, he tallied six wins on the mound with a 2.01 ERA and led the Coast until the playoffs with .90 Ks. At the plate, he batted .310.

In his first two games of 2006, Henry has struck out 13 batters on

the mound for a 1-0 record and has two hits and two RBIs.

SSC head coach Mark Logan stated, "Tyler is very excited about this opportunity. He deserves this chance as he has worked hard for it. This is a big positive for him and the program."

A trio of OLA senior soccer players have committed to play soccer for the NAIA powerhouse William Carey Crusaders. Annie Giardino, Lauren Renz and Megan Flynt all committed to WCC and

head coach Danny Owens.

The trio has anchored the OLA soccer program for the past three seasons leading them to the state title game three years and claiming two titles.

Bay High's Hannah Johnson recently signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer for the Pearl River Community College Wildcats. Johnson was also a star for the Lady Tigers' volleyball team and led Bay High to the state title in 2004.

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USM whips Memphis 73-50 on Hancock Day

BY JOSEPH W. GEX, II
Staff Writer

The Lady Golden Eagles of USM whipped the LadyTigers of Memphis 73-50 before an estimated crowd of 1,000 fans that was overwhelmingly made up of Hancock Countians on Friday, February 17th.

The Golden Eagles celebrated the day as Hancock County Day in an effort to raise awareness and honor the county in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Hancock County is the home of USM head coach Joye Lee-McNelis, a former star at Hancock North Central High School and USM, and her two star freshmen Bay High's Kendra Reed and Hancock's Ashley Boehnel. Memphis junior guard Devin Necaise is also a native Hancock Countian.

Lee-McNelis stated, "I am very fortunate to be close to my home in Hancock County. Plus, I am very blessed to have two talented freshmen in Kendra Reed and Ashley Boehnel. There is a big following from Hancock County and it showed tonight. The people down there really love their basketball and we took this opportunity to

recognize them. They have been through an incredible amount and it has been trying on everyone. We wanted to take time out and show them that we love them and appreciate them."

USM rode the back of Kendra Reed early in the game until they found their groove. Reed, thrown to the fire quickly as a freshman in Division I basketball, scored 18 points and four rebounds. Amber Eugene led the way for USM with 19 points while Liz Biland added 13 points.

USM (11-13, 8-5) now sits in a tie for fourth-place heading into the final stretch before the Conference USA tournament in Dallas.

Reed, the state's Miss Basketball in 2005, has had to learn on the fly due to some early season injuries to the squad. Lee-McNelis commented, "Conditioning is a major aspect that she has had to endure making the jump from high school to this level. She has made great strides there. Their is also a frustration level that needs to be controlled. A freshman cannot simply jump to this level and dominate as they did in high school. It takes hard work and

she is aware of that. Kendra Reed is so fundamental, so we have been working on putting some 'junk' into her game."

Reed is currently the leading scorer on the team averaging about 15

points per game. Boehnel, a former star at Hancock, has had adjustments to make, as well. Lee-McNelis stated, "Ashley Boehnel has had the same adjustments to make with condition-

ing and the frustration level. She knows that there is constant work at this level and she is willing to take it on. She knows that she will have to work hard to get open and make strong cuts."

USM starts the youngest lineup of any Division I team. The dividends may be tough to come by right now; however, down the road look for USM to cash in on the investment.

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SSC claims 1st regional powerlifting title; area teams take to the diamond

BY JOSEPH W. GEX, II
Staff Writer

The St. Stanislaus powerlifting team claimed the Class 4A regional powerlifting title on Saturday, February 18th at the Blaize Fitness Center on SSC's campus.

The Rocks defeated defending regional and south state champion Quitman High School with 72 points. Quitman tallied 51 points followed by Pearl River Central with 18 points. All 12 of the Rock-a-chaw lifters qualified for the South State competition that will be hosted by SSC on Saturday, March 11th.

Chris Tran won the 114-lb division with a total lift of 900 pounds. He had a 330lb squat, 390lb deadlift and a 180lb bench press. Ravi Varma claimed the 132-pound division with a total lift of 855 pounds on a 310-lb squat, 200-lb bench press and a 345-lb deadlift.

David Grapusa won the 165-pound division with a total lift of 1,070 pounds on a 425-lb squat, 230-lb bench press and a 415-lb deadlift. Buddy Schultz was tops in the 242-pound division with a total lift of 1,280 pounds on a 535-lb squat, 255-lb bench press and a 490-lb deadlift. Caleb McQueen and Matt Matranga claimed first and second place in the 275-pound division. McQueen's top marks were a 630-lb squat, 350-lb bench press and a 545-lb deadlift for a total of

1,525 pounds. Matranga had a total lift of 1,305 pounds.

J.C. Brignone claimed the 308-pound division with a total lift of 1,495 pounds on a 600-lb squat, 335-lb bench press and a 560-lb deadlift. Sean Bentz won the super heavyweight division with a total lift of 960 pounds on a 385-lb squat, 220-lb bench press and a 355-lb deadlift.

Justin Felter and M.J. Joachim finished second and third overall in the 123-pound division with total lifts of 720 and 690 pounds, respectively. Zach Elkins took second in the 181-pound division with a total lift of 1,080 pounds while Dusty Hoffpauir was second in the 198-pound division with a total lift of 1,115 pounds.

The baseball season got under way on Saturday with several area teams in action. SSC (2-0) won the Catholic Invitational Tournament with a 4-3 win over Mercy Cross and a 1-0 win over St. John in nine innings.

In the first game, Tyler Henry struck out 13 batters and had an RBI while Chase Kleinpeter went 2-for-2 and a home-run. Dylan Drake had two stolen bases and Brian Wittmann added an RBI. In the second game, Kleinpeter pitched all nine innings and allowed just two hits and scored the winning run. Henry had two hits and the game winning RBI. Ryan Stechmann added two hits.

Helping Hand at St. Ann



The Knights of Columbus Council 848 in Jackson raised nearly \$5000. In a raffle recently to help buy building supplies for St. Ann's Catholic Church in Clermont Harbor. Lowes sold the materials to the group at cost, bringing the total value of the supplies to about \$10,000. Hundreds of volunteers from across the county have been busy helping rebuild the church, including Amie Joseph Cyr, left, of Cookeville, TN, Tony Dixon of the KC Council 1522 in Bay St. Louis, Ken Jackson of Siloam Springs, AR, Rodney Foss of Bismarck, ND, and Rev. Truong Q. Trinh of St. Ann's. KC member Elmer Marsh, top photo, at right, helps Dixon and Lowes' employees unload the 448 sheets of sheetrock and 2500 square feet of insulation.

Echo photos by publisher Randy Ponder

Sleet and ice storm slaps artists

SEA COAST ECHO

The artists in Hancock County, Mississippi are resilient to say the least. First, Hurricane Katrina knocked them flat and now a sleet and ice storm has delayed their kick off event for a series of national shows. "Hearts for Art", a one-night event at the William J. Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock Arkansas, was called off due to an unexpected winter storm. The event, which was scheduled for February 18, has been rescheduled for March 11.

The "Hearts for Arts" event was planned as a "Night for Arkansas" to support to Mississippi's Katrina Artists" by Claire Haun. Haun, who is vice-president of The Arts, Hancock County, had evacuated to Little Rock with her husband and mother after the hurricane. Even though they are permanently settled in Arkansas now, Haun has not relinquished her ties to the arts community on the Gulf Coast. Although she and her family lost everything in the hurricane, she decided to focus on the plight of the 200 artists in Hancock County, most of whom she knew personally.

She realized that most artists had lost not only homes, studios, inventory, supplies and equip-

ment in Hurricane Katrina; they had lost the opportunity to show and sell their work. Bay St. Louis, named as one of the "best small art towns in America" by USA Today was decimated losing all but one gallery. She knew that if the artists could not begin to get back to work, if they could not sell their work, then an exodus would begin.

One problem was solved when a shipment of art supplies arrived in Bay St. Louis. Artist Carole Pigott, originally from Mississippi and now living in Santa Fe, solicited donations of art supplies to bring to the Gulf Coast. Artisans, a well known supplier in New Mexico, donated a wide variety of art supplies worth approximately \$40,000. This provided artists with the tools to get back to work.

The idea for a series of traveling art shows was born and Haun began planning the kick-off event. Even though the Clinton Presidential Library had never hosted an art show, even though everyone told her it would be impossible, she knew that if it could happen it would bring national attention to the artists and their needs.

In a matter of weeks, she did the impossible:

procuring the Presidential Library, enlisting the support of the Arkansas Arts Council, the Arkansas Art Center, the Hot Springs Documentary Film Institute, the Mississippi Arts Commission, the North Little Rock Mayor's Office, the THEA Foundation and more. A date was set and she secured grants and donations for everything from printing to catering, from airfare for the artists to shipment of the artwork. She arranged host families for the artists, a luncheon and special tours.

Meanwhile, on the coast, invitations went out to local artists who either had work from before the storm or who had produced new work since the storm. A juror selected the best work to represent the arts in Hancock County. Twenty artists were chosen among which were nine painters, four sculptors, a photographer, a printmaker, a mosaic artist, two mixed media artists, a pen and ink artist and an assemblage artist.

The one thing that Haun could not arrange to perfection, however, was the weather. The artwork arrived on Thursday and the artists arrived on Friday. The

show was set up, everything was going according to plan when an ice and sleet storm blew in late that night. Early Saturday morning the it was announced that the Clinton Library, as most of Little Rock itself, would be closed due to the ice storm.

Haun, not to be outdone after all the effort involved, quickly consulted everyone involved and came up with a new plan. The show would be rescheduled, the artists would return and the event would receive even more attention. Additional art by the twenty artists would be featured at the Arkansas Art Gallery and the Oval Art Gallery on Friday, March 10, which coincides with the local Art Walk. Then on Saturday, March 11, the "Hearts for Art" champagne reception and art show would take place as originally planned. Tickets purchased for the original date will be honored and additional tickets are available for the March 11 event at (501) 321-4747, Hot Springs Documentary Institute.

For more information, contact Claire Haun at 501-812-4781 or HAUN1@aol.com or Gwen Impson at 228-263-6530 or gwenimpson@hotmail.com.

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IN THE CHANCERY COURT
OF HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI:
ROSEMARY ELIZABETH TACKETT
PETITIONER
VERSUS
MICHAEL A. WELCH
RESPONDENT
TILDA TACKETT and CHERYL RAS-
BURY INTERVENOR/MOVANTS
VERSUS

ROSEMARY ELIZABETH TACKETT,
MICHAEL A. WELCH, and JEFFREY

You have been made a Defendant in the suit filed in this Court by Tilda Tackett and Cheryl Rasbury seeking to Terminate Parental Rights. You are summoned to appear and defend against the complaint or petition filed against you in this action at 1:30 p.m. on the 23rd of March, 2006, in the District of Hancock County Chancery Court, Mississippi, and in case of your failure to appear and defend, a judgment will be entered against you for the money or other thing demanded in the complaint or petition. You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire. The money or other thing demanded is under my hand and the seal of said Court, this 30 day of January, 2006.
(SEAL)

Tim Kellar,
Hancock County Chancery Court
Larnell Scarborough
02/08; 02/15; 02/22/06

IN THE CHANCERY COURT
OF HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI:
IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF ALLEN B. PEERY

CAUSE NO. C2301-05-783
EXECUTRIS'S NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 3rd day of February, 2006 by the Chancery Clerk of Hancock County, Mississippi, to the undersigned upon the Estate of Allen B. Peery deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having debts against said estate to present the same to the Clerk of the said Court for probate and registry according to law within 90 days from the date of the first publication of this Notice, or they will be forever barred.

This 3rd day of February, 2006
LINDA L. HENFREY
Executor of the Estate of
Allen B. Peery
02/08; 02/15; 02/22/06

IN THE CHANCERY COURT
OF HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI:
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF VALERIE RUSSELL LAINE

CAUSE NO. C2301-05-781
EXECUTRIS'S NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 3rd day of February, 2006 by the Chancery Clerk of Hancock County, Mississippi, to the undersigned upon the Estate of Valerie Russell Laine, deceased. Notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the Clerk of the said Court for probate and registry according to law within 90 days from the date of the first publication of this Notice, or they will be forever barred.

This 3rd day of February, 2006
LINDA L. HENFREY
Executor of the Estate of
Valerie Russell Laine
02/08; 02/15; 02/22/06

IN THE CHANCERY COURT
OF HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI:
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF ALVIN F. DILIBERTO

CAUSE NO. C2301-05-742
EXECUTRIS'S NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Letters Testamentary having been granted on the 3rd day of February, 2006 by the Chancery Clerk of Hancock County, Mississippi, to the undersigned upon the Estate of Alvin F. Diliberto deceased, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against said estate to present the same to the Clerk of the said Court for probate and registry according to law within 90 days from the date of the first publication of this Notice, or they will be forever barred.

This 3rd day of February, 2006
ANNE H. DILIBERTO
Executor of the Estate of
Alvin F. Diliberto
02/08; 02/15; 02/22/06

IN THE CHANCERY COURT
OF HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI:
IN THE MATTER OF THE HEIRSHIP
OF RICHARD DUON WHITFIELD

(DECEASED) DEFENDANTS

AMELIA BEARD WHITFIELD PLAINTIFF

VERSUS
THE UNKNOWN HEIRS-AT-LAW
OF RICHARD DUON WHITFIELD

(DECEASED) DEFENDANTS
CAUSE NO. C2301-05-1764

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

TO: THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW OF
RICHARD DUON WHITFIELD

(DECEASED)

Yours is hereby given to all persons having the Court adjudicate:

THAT the sole and only heir-at-law of

RICHARD DUON WHITFIELD (deceased)

is his surviving spouse, AMELIA BEARD WHITFIELD.

There are no Defendants other than you in this action.

You are summoned to appear and defend against the complaint or petition filed against you in this action at 9:00 o'clock a.m. on the 14th day of March, 2006, in the Chancery Court of Hancock County, Mississippi, now located at 3068 Longfellow Drive, Trailer # 3, Bay St. Louis, MS 39520, and in case of your failure to appear and defend, a judgment will be entered against you for the relief demand in the complaint or petition.

You are not required to file an answer or other pleading but you may do so if you desire.

ISSUED under my hand and seal of said Court, this 3 day of February, 2006.

(SEAL)

CHANCERY CLERK, HANCOCK COUNTY

By: Larnell Scarborough D.C.

02/15; 02/22/06; 03/01/06

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL QUALIFIED FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS THAT THE SCHOOL BOARD OF THE BAY ST. LOUIS - WAVELAND SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTIONS 37-7-333, 27-105-305, AND 27-105-311 OF THE MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972 AS AMENDED, SHALL RECEIVE SEAL BIDS FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF KEEPING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FUNDS FROM JULY 1, 2006 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2007 AND THEREAFTER UNTIL NEW ARRANGEMENTS SHALL BE MADE ACCORDING TO LAW.

SAY BIDS SHALL BE RECEIVED AT THE OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT, 201 CARROLL AVENUE, BAY ST. LOUIS, MS 39520 UNTIL 10:00 A.M. ON MARCH 15, 2006 AND EACH SHALL BE SUBMITTED ON THE BID PROPOSAL FORM WHICH MAYBE OBTAINED FROM THE

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, (trailer #6). THE SCHOOL BOARD RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND TO WAIVE ANY IRREGULARITIES IN THE BIDS. IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED EACH SEALED BID SHALL HAVE "DEPARTMENT" & "DATE" WRITTEN OR TYPED ON THE FACE.

SHERRY PONDER,

PRESIDENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

KIM M. STASNY, SUPERINTENDENT

BAY ST. LOUIS-WAVELAND SCHOOL

DISTRICT

02/15; 02/22/06

Bid specifications are available, upon request, from the office of the Board of Supervisors, at the Courthouse Complex, 3068 Longfellow Drive, Trailer #3, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi 39520 or by calling (228) 467-0172.

All envelopes must be marked on the outside of the envelope "BID ENCLOSED" and state the item bid on and the bid opening date.

The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Published by Order of the Board of Supervisors at the Courthouse Complex, 3068 Longfellow Drive, Trailer # 3, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi 39520 or by calling (228) 467-0172 or pick up specifications from the North Barn Facility, 18652 Highway 43, Kiln, Mississippi 39556 or by calling (228) 255-3367.

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ALBERT'S LAWN CARE: Local resident for many years. Grass cutting, weed-eating, edging, bush/tree trimming and light trash removal. 467-7799 or 342-8287. 12/31/06

LOCAL RESIDENT WILL PAINT interior. You buy paint and color. Reasonable price call 467-7799 or 342-8287.

1999 DUTCHMAN POP-UP, slr, heat, gas, \$2700. Cash only to 1st buyer. Call 342-8287 or 467-7799. 03/01

A NEW FULL SIZE MATTRESS SET, never opened, \$130.00. Can deliver. 228-234-0999. 03/01

NASA MEMORY FORM QUEEN SIZE mattress set, still in plastic, 20yr. warranty. Must sell \$60.00. Can deliver. 228-234-0999. 03/01

NEW QUEEN PILLOW TOP mattress set never opened, \$145.00. Can deliver. 228-234-0999. 03/01

3 PIECE KING DBL PILLOW TOP mattress set. Never opened, sell \$225.00. Can deliver. 228-234-0999. 03/01

05 SKETTER ZX225, LOADED, \$30,000. Call 228-493-4378.

HR/BENEFITS COORDINATOR for established Bay St Louis company. Proficient in Word/Excel. Payroll experience a plus. Min 2 years, benefits/HR experience required. HR Dept., P.O. Box 4101, Bay St. Louis, MS 39521. TFN

100% OWNER-FINANCING. Will also finance water connection and septic system fees. White Cypress Lakes. Beautiful lots from 1 acre to 30 acres, waterfront available, mobile homes allowed in certain areas and great fishing. Ten miles east of I-59, Carters exit. Thirty miles from Bay St. Louis. 228-255-1790.

DUMP TRUCK AND TRACTOR SERVICE. All types of dirt, grading, leveling, limestone. Driveways

build and repaired. 228-216-5566, 228-216-5567. TFN

LAWN CARE: 30 YEARS experience, limited openings, some light cleanup. Services available in Bay & Diamondhead area. Call Michael Green, 228-467-4491, leave message. 03/29

FAMILY PET, TABBY CAT LOST

in Diamondhead, Twin Lakes area

on Friday 12/16/05, declawed and

unable to defend himself. Please

help him get back home to grieving

family. Reward for his return. Call 228-332-0253. 03/04

FOUND AFTER KATRINA Certificate of honorable discharge in the name of CPL Johnnie G. Gates, dated Jan 27th 1953. Please call 323-2642 or 985-209-3309.

2005 FLEETWOOD WILDERNESS 27ft pull behind camper trailer. Excellent condition. Very spacious, sleeps 6, slide-out, sofa, dining area, queen bed with room divider, a/c/heat, refrigerator/freezer, microwave, am/fm/cd/radio, entertainment center, shower/tub, cable ready, antenna. Retalls for \$21,000, asking \$14,900. Call 228-342-1088 or after 6:00 p.m. call 228-467-4962.

FURNITURE SHOPPING? Special discount pricing. Direct from N.C. Over 400 MFG to choose from delivery & set-up in your home. www.homeawayfurniture.com 800-334-9094. 03/15

LOST LARGE GERMAN SHEPHERD, 10 years old. Lost in the vicinity of Thomas St., Cedar Point. Reward offered! Call 228-493-4690 or 228-493-0819. 02/22

INCOME TAX, settlement, or insurance checks cashed. No matter how big, in the Jimmy Stockstill Motor Building, 1-800-798-9133. 02/25

79 FIESTA TRAILER FOR SALE, fixer upper, furnished, \$5000. o.b.o. 228-467-6528 or 466-9877. 02/28

JACK, LEVEL AND REPAIR HOUSES. Call 228-263-0035. 02/22

BLAIZE ELECTRIC: Local business, 25 years experience, licensed and bonded, 228-467-0809. 03/01

BRAND NEW 2BR/1BA, LARGE LOT, 933 Shipp St., Waveland, \$87,000. Call 228-305-0110. 02/25

HELP WANTED: EARN UP TO \$500 per week assembling products at home. No experience. Info 1-985-646-1700 Dept. MS-290.

NOW HIRING SHIP FITTERS, flux core welders, pipe welders, pipe fitters, marine electrician's. Top pay to \$25, an hour including per diem. 1-877-863-3728. EOE 03/01

NEW 32 FOOT, 5TH WHEEL TRAILER, (2) 12,000 lb. axles, 52 yard, 6 foot sides, 8 foot wide, one

HELP WANTED: CARPENTER Helper, labors, John Russo, 228-493-0302. 02/25

BILLY FENCING: PAGE LINK AND privacy, new or repair, 228-222-1630. 03/11

BILLY'S TREE SERVICE: COMPLETE tree service, house gutting & cleaning. 228-493-2407 or 228-493-1453. 03/11

B.S.L. LOT FOR SALE: MOBILE home subdivision, COE to clear lot, ready now for FEMA trailer,

HELP WANTED: CARPENTER Helper, labors, John Russo, 228-493-0302. 02/25

DALE CARNEGIE TRAINING

Classes Now

Forming

601-372-6282

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EMP. - GENERAL

TECHNICAL TRAINEE: Mechanical, welding, electronics, etc. No experience required. Will train. Salary benefits, and tools provided. High graduates ages 17-34. Must be willing to relocate. Call 1-888-255-6289, T.F. 9-4.

Head Press Operator/Manager

Wanted at Greenwood newspaper

Excellent pay and benefits

New press equipment

Contact Tim Kalich

Greenwood, Miss., Commonwealth

1-800-898-0730

tkalich@gcommonwealth.com

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Lines offers regional runs with high pay

and weekend overtime. OTR also available.

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Krewe of Nereids



Echo staff photos
by Randy Ponder
and Geoff Belcher



601-582-7071

10 Howard Road
Petal, MS 39065

Owners
Ronnie Crane
Stephen Mosley

Classified

Continued from Page 13

13001

PARTTIME SECRETARIAL POSITION for insurance company in Kilm. Fax resume to (222) 255-1328 or mail to Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 175, Kilm, MS 39096. 03/01

WANTED USED RESTAURANT Equipment. 228-216-0606. 03/01

LOST DURING KATRINA 48 STATE American Flag. Flown during WWII and everyday for four sons who were in Europe and So. Pacific. All returned home. Located area of Faure St., Waveland. Please call 1-804-987-8025 if found. 03/01

RECEPTIONIST NEEDED must have professional appearance and people skills. Applying person: Sign Lab, 2410 McLaughlin St., Waveland, MS. 39098. 03/01

FOR RENT 2 BEDROOM

HOUSE, smoke/pet free, w/d hook-ups, stove, refrig., 467-9777. 02/22

LOCAL HANDYMAN/CARPENTER needed for projects at our house and business. Work around your schedule. Hourly pay. Call 228-457-4026. 02/22

BAY-WAVELAND AUTO SALES

WMS to many trade ins. Reduced for quick cash sales. 2002 Nissan Frontier One Cab, 57K, \$10,000.

98 Geo Tracker, rag top, auto, 52K, \$3,995; 98 Chry. Concourse, one owner, 4dr, silver, \$2,995; 93

Phy. Cont. blue, 5 speed, gas saver, \$1,995; 90 Toyota Camry Wagon, white, 114K, \$1,995; 98 Ford

Grand Prix, 4dr, white, V6, \$1,995;

98 Merc Grand Marq., dk blue,

4dr, auto, \$2,500; 91 Dodge

RAM 2500, window van, V6, awc,

cruise, \$2,500; Bay-Waveland Auto

Sales, 202 Hwy 90, Waveland.

463-1115.

DRIVERS: SOUTHERN DECIDED rural Home weekends! Earn \$700-\$1000./wk. Family benefits/ 401K. Regional runs. 800-247-2002 ext. 1

www.trctrans.com No CDL? Dial

ext. 3. 02/25

103 Chevy Malibu, white, 4dr, CD, nice, \$10,000., Bay-Waveland Auto Sales, 463-1115.

103 Chevy Venture, red, 4dr, van, extra clean, \$10,000., Bay-Waveland Auto Sales, 463-1115.

100 Ford F-250, reg cab, white, V-

8, auto, ready to go, \$7,995., Bay-

Waveland Auto Sales, 463-1115.

ACCOMPLISHED MEAT CUTTER with merchandising and management skills. Need immediate.

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